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HALSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR 1953.

To The Chairman and Members of the Halstead Urban District
Council.

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this report on the health and vital statistics of the District for the year 1953. It is laid out on the usual lines.

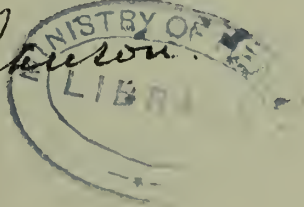
The year has been one of good health with no noteworthy outbreak of infectious disease. The number of cases of such diseases notified has been exceptionally low.

During the year 25 Council houses have been completed, and at the end of the year 30 more houses were in the course of construction. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government have recently published circulars drawing the attention of Local Authorities to the necessity of now taking into serious consideration the re-conditioning of sub-standard houses and the making of Clearance Areas.

There can be no doubt that the time has now come for considering the clearance of those houses incapable of re-construction.

My thanks are again due to all members of the Council and their Staff for the kindness and consideration that I invariably receive.

I have the honour to be
Your sincere servant,

J. S. Ranson


SECTION A - STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres.....	1172
Population (Registrar General's estimate)	6219
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books (End of 1953).....	2238
Rateable Value.....	£32,259.
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£123,13.0.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live births	Total	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	98	48	50
Illegitimate	1	1	0
Still births.	3	2	1
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.....	15.9		
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population (England and Wales).....	15.5		
Still birth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births....	29.7		
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(England and Wales).....	22.4		
Deaths (Registrar General's estimate).....	70		
Death rate per 1,000 resident population.....	11.2		
Death rate (corrected by comparability figure of 0.75).....	8.4		
Death Rate (England and Wales).....	11.4		
Death rate of infants per 1,000 live births.....	20.2		
Deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.....	20.4		
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.....	0		
Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....	7		
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages).....	0		
Deaths from Measles (all ages).....	0		

Deaths at Various age groups during 1957a

(Registered and transferred)

<u>Age Group.</u>	<u>Number of Deaths.</u>
Under one year	2
1 and under 2 years	0
2 and under 3 years	0
5 and under 15 years	0
15 and under 25 years	0
25 and under 35 years	4
35 and under 45 years	1
45 and under 55 years	5
55 and under 65 years	5
65 and under 75 years	19
75 and upwards.	34
	Total. 70
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SECTION B Health Services of the area.

A. Public Health Officers.

1. J.S.Ranson M.R.C.S. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health
2. S.N.Pycroft, M.I.M.C.E., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.S.E.,
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

B. There have been no changes in the following services during this year:-

1. Laboratory Services.
2. Ambulance Services.
3. Nursing in the home.
4. Clinics and treatment centres.
5. Hospitals.

SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(Report of Mr.S.N.Pycroft, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor)

Inspection made during the year

Number of inspections made and re-inspected.....	182
Nuisances detected.....	82
Nuisances abated.....	86
Informal Notices served.....	23
Statutory Notices served.....	10
Informal Notices complied with.....	14
Statutory Notices complied with.....	13

Water Supply.

Samples of water for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were taken throughout the year at the Parsonage Street pumping station and at the booster station near Mitchell Avenue. The results were satisfactory apart from a number of samples from the booster station which showed some bacteriological pollution. This was eventually traced to the storage tanks at this station. Cleansing and treatment with chlorine removed the trouble and it has not reappeared.

The occurrence caused some anxiety, however, and the Council considered the installation of chlorinating apparatus. It was decided to take no further action while reports indicated that the water was bacteriologically pure, especially as the booster is regarded as a temporary part of the system.

Particulars of Supply.

No of houses supplied from mains.....	2234
No of persons therein.....	6207
No of houses supplied from standpipes.....	3
No of persons therein.....	5

Parsonage Street Pumping Station.

In 1952 the new borehole was completed and the second submersible pump installed. This made redundant the old pumping machinery, and during 1953 this material was cleared away, the well in the engine room was covered and alterations made to the old bore to facilitate withdrawal of the smaller submersible pump. A water level indicator was fitted on the new bore and a meter and recorder installed to measure the amount of water pumped daily.

This was the first time it had been possible to measure the town's daily consumption with any degree of accuracy. Previously, our estimates of about 200,000 gallons a day had been based on levels in the storage tanks. The recorder shows a slightly higher daily consumption on an average, rising occasionally to 250,000 but seldom falling below 200,000.

Storage and distribution.

Short lengths of main were laid in Chapel Hill and in Mount Hill. Both were intended to complete circuits of mains and make local improvements in the distribution.

No alterations were made in the arrangements for storing water, but instructions were given that, as opportunity arose, a scheme should be considered partly to provide a much safer storage capacity and partly to improve the distribution on the South of the town.

SEWERAGE. The disposal works continue to produce an unsatisfactory effluent. The Council's scheme for improvements was submitted for, and obtained approval in principle, but the Ministry of Housing and Local Government were unable to permit the expenditure envisaged.

The new sludge pumping arrangement was completed and has been a considerable improvement on the old pump.

SECTION D - HOUSING.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects.....	72
No of inspections made for the purpose.....	131
No of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	5
No of dwelling houses found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	67
No of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or its officers.....	55
No of dwelling houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring repairs.....	10
No of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.....	13
No of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.....	Nil
No of houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders.....	Nil
No of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	5
No of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit.....	2

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

No carcases were condemned during the year.

The following food supplies have been surrendered and condemned during the year:

Meat.....	61	tins & 2 cwt 3 qtrs 14 lbs.
Vegetables.....	14	"
Milk.....	39	"
Fish.....	3	"
Fruit.....	317	"
Miscellaneous.....	34	"

SECTION F - PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.

Cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Infectious Jaundice	5	-	-
Measles	13	-	-
Whooping Cough	12	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Cerebro - spinal meningitis	1	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	1	-
	31	1	-

Tuberculosis - Cases notified.

Adults.	Pulmonary.	Male	1	Children Pulmonary	Male	-
		Female	4		Female	-

Non-Pulmonary nil.

Non-Pulmonary nil.

Tuberculosis deaths nil.

SECTION G - FACTORIES WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

There are 54 of these places on the register. 30 inspections were made during the year and only 5 defects were found and remedied.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. Register.</u>	<u>No of inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	14	10.
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	40	20
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>No of cases in which defects referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>
Want of cleanliness	2	2	-
Overcrowding.	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-
Inadequate drainage of floor	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences.			
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offence relating to outwork)	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation.	-	-	-
Totals	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>

